

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 108—
SUPPORTING THE WEED AND
SEED AND COPS PROGRAMS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss legislation I introduced, in support of the Community Oriented Policing Services in the Department of Justice and the Weed and Seed program, led by the United States Attorney's Offices.

These two programs are the bedrock of community involvement in ending the cycle of violence that plagues our cities.

Weed and Seed is an innovative, comprehensive, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.

It is a strategy that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity.

The U.S. Attorney's Office plays a leadership role in organizing local officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders.

Frankly, I am pleased the highest federal prosecutor in the region is getting involved with the community he or she is prosecuting. These United States Attorneys work hard and do not want to see people in the system.

Every Weed and Seed site is required to establish a Safe Haven, a multi-service center where many youth- and adult-oriented services are delivered. These are often housed in a school or community center.

The main goal of Weed and Seed is promoting the long-term health of communities.

However, the funding for this worthy program has hit some rough spots in recent years.

Funding for the program increased every year from its inception in 1993.

In 2005, \$62 million was appropriated. However, requested funding in subsequent years fell to \$50 million in 2006 and \$49 million in 2007. This is a program that works.

We must continue the funding. Our cities need it. Our children need it.

My resolution also discusses the positive aspects of the COPS Program.

The community-oriented policing component bridges the "weeding" and "seeding" elements of the Weed and Seed strategy.

I think we all can agree that community-based strategies for solving crime problems brings a sense of responsibility within the community and help develop cooperative relationships between the police and residents.

Also, community policing embraces the two key concepts of community engagement and problem solving.

Having the community involved is the most important aspect to preventing crime and removing our kids from the vicious cycle of violence.

When everyone gets involved, we all benefit.

The COPS Program has been an overwhelming success.

COPS has funded more than 118,400 police officers and sheriff's deputies.

COPS has funded more than 6,454 school resource officers and trained more than 9,158 school resource officers and school administrators.

COPS has funded large and small jurisdictions, in fact 87% of COPS grantees serve populations of less than 50,000.

That is a community benefiting from Cops on the beat.

However, this president does not see fit to fund this program. In fact, the Bush Administration has not funded the COPS program for the last few years.

We can do better, and this resolution is a good beginning.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. ROSA AGUIGUI REYES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Rosa Aguigui Reyes, the first woman to win election to public office on Guam. Her precedent setting election broke through the "marble ceiling" present on Guam at that time. In doing so, she paved the way for other women—including me—to serve as elected leaders of our island's community. Mrs. Reyes, elected to the Guam Congress's House of Assembly in 1946, passed away on January 29, 2007, at the age of 91.

Uniformed officers of the Department of the Navy were appointed by the President of the United States to serve as Governor of Guam for the period immediately following the liberation of Guam from enemy occupation. The bicameral Congress on Guam served at this time as an advisory body to the governor. Members of the Guam Congress were *bona fide* representatives of their constituents but possessed no legislative powers.

Mrs. Reyes, by standing for election to Guam's Congress, defied convention. Governance on Guam was considered a male prerogative. Mrs. Reyes, to her credit and to the benefit of all of us who came after her, stood for office so that the voices of Guam's women could be heard, and they were. Mrs. Reyes served with honor and distinction. Her service remains as an inspiration for me and so many other women on Guam.

Mrs. Reyes, born in the village of Merizo on February 7, 1915, was not only a politician. In fact, she was among the first group of teachers trained at the College of Guam. She graduated with an associate's degree in education in 1954. Mrs. Reyes, however, possessed significant experience as a classroom teacher well before her earning of her degree. Mrs. Reyes began teaching at Merizo Martyrs Elementary School in 1933. She taught there for 31 years. She also served for 11 years as principal of F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School in the village of Umatac before retiring from the Guam Public School System.

Mrs. Reyes also worked as the principal research assistant to the late Dr. Laura Thompson, an anthropologist who authored studies

about Chamorro culture and history before and after World War II. Dr. Thompson returned to Guam shortly after the war to conduct continued research on Guam's culture and to determine what effects and impacts the years of occupation during the war had on the Chamorro people. Mrs. Reyes and Dr. Thompson enjoyed a joyful reunion in 1987, when Dr. Thompson made her final trip to Guam.

Mrs. Reyes was enrolled in the Guam Educators' Hall of Fame in 1983, in recognition of her legacy as an educator, her contributions to the study of Chamorro history and culture, and her courage and leadership in teaching us that women can rightfully and ably serve in elected public office. She remained committed to serving her church and its community activities throughout her life. Her interest in cultural preservation and in traditional arts also never waned. Mrs. Reyes, as evidence of the strength of her character, remained humble despite having established a prominent, diverse, and precedent setting legacy for herself in the history of our island and in the hearts of our people. Mrs. Reyes is an admirable role model and her life will inspire future generations of leaders on Guam.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the passing of Mrs. Rosa Aguigui Reyes and I offer my condolences to her husband, Mr. Ignacio Reyes, a former commissioner of Merizo, and her children and grandchildren. I thank them for supporting her efforts to contribute to the betterment of Guam. They can be proud of her achievements, and we share in their pride for her legacy.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
SHAWN FALTER

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to PFC Shawn Falter, who gave his life in service to our Nation on Saturday, January 20 in Karbala, Iraq.

Shawn grew up in the town of Homer, NY, and was a dedicated and loving son, brother and friend to many. As a student at Homer High School, Shawn excelled both on the field and in the classroom. He was a hard-working student, a natural leader, and a selfless friend who could light up a room with impeccable timing.

Shawn enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2005, following in the footsteps of his three older brothers. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division deployed out of Fort Richardson, AK. Sadly, Shawn was killed during an ambush in Karbala, Iraq earlier this week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Shawn was truly an exemplary American who served his country bravely. Our Nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Shawn Falter fighting to protect us and others around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring PFC Shawn Falter, along with all of the other brave Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.